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## **Sen. Hardiman joins colleagues in advocating Student Safety Initiative**

**LANSING** –Sen. Bill Hardiman R-Kentwood, introduced legislation yesterday that would keep felons and dangerous individuals out of the classroom. This came as part of a package of bills introduced by House and Senate Republicans.

As part of the legislation, Hardiman proposed SB 615 that would require the Michigan Department of Human Services to do fingerprint-based background checks on all daycare center licensees and require daycare centers to do background checks on all paid employees. Hardiman's legislation would also prohibit daycare centers from employing convicted sex offenders.

"Parents should have the utmost confidence in the safety of our state's schools and daycare centers," Hardiman said. "I want all parents to have peace of mind knowing that convicted sex offenders aren't among the people we entrust to care for and educate our children."

The Student Safety Initiative, a 14-bill package, includes:

- Requiring background checks on all paid school and day-care center employees and prohibiting anyone with a sex offense from being employed;
- Creating Student Safety Zones by prohibiting convicted sex offenders from living, working or loitering within 1,000 feet of a school;
- Revoking teaching certification for convicted sex offenders; and
- Requiring all school employees to self-report any criminal charge to their school district and to the Michigan Department of Education.

SB 615 has been referred to the Senate committee on Family and Human Services for further consideration.

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